

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** EBSA-2010-0018

Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

**Comment On:** EBSA-2010-0018-0002

Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

**Document:** EBSA-2010-0018-DRAFT-0272

Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

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## General Comment

RE: CMS-9992-IFC2

It has been proposed by the Dept. of Health and Human Services from a recommendation of the Institute of Medicine that coverage for contraceptive agents be provided by all insurance companies which has presented an ethical dilemma for faith based hospital systems, especially Catholic systems such as Ascension Health. Additionally such a mandate will conflict with some individual physicians' consciences thus affecting their practices in a negative fashion. Religious exemptions to this proposal are too narrow in scope and will not include most faith based hospitals. More specifically as the Chairman of our hospital Ethic's Committee, forcing the institution's health insurance coverage to include contraceptive services puts the hospital at great moral and ethical odds with Church teachings. We should not be compelled to compromise our beliefs. I would implore the HHS to broaden its definition of exemptions for religious institutions particularly Catholic institutions and include a conscience clause that allows physicians to practice medicine without compromise. Thank you.